

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 07973 01 OF 02 101043Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 WARSAW 7973

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PL
SUBJECT: GIEREK MEETS THE PRESS

REF: (A) WARSAW 6311; (B) WARSAW 7030

1. SUMMARY. DURING A MEETING WITH POLISH JOURNALISTS ON
SEPTEMBER 6, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE POLISH UNITED
WORKERS' PARTY (PZPR) EDWARD GIEREK DISCUSSED POLISH
FOREIGN POLICY AND THE SITUATION IN AGRICULTURE.
IN HIS REVIEW OF FOREIGN POLICY, GIEREK MADE THE
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 07973 01 OF 02 101043Z

STANDARD BOWS TO POLAND'S SOVIET CONNECTION, DE-
TENTE, DISARMAMENT, AND PEACE, CONDEMNED PRC
FOREIGN POLICY, AND ADOPTED A MODERATE TONE IN
HIS COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH THE WEST. THE FIRST
SECRETARY REVEALED NO FIGURES ON THIS YEAR'S
HARVEST, BUT SAID IT WOULD BE BETTER THAN LAST
YEAR'S CROP. GIEREK SAID POLAND HAD STOPPED

IMPORTING MEAT AND WAS HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF NIGRO-GEN FERTILIZER TO AGRICULTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. AS IN SIMILAR SESSION IN THE PAST (GIEREK LAST MET THE PRESS ON APRIL 26), CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER JERZY LUKASZEWICZ AND KAZIMIERZ ROKOSZEWSKI DIRECTOR OF THE PZPR CENTRAL COMMITTEE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PRESS, RADIO, AND TV, SAT IN ON THE CONFERENCE. GIEREK ADDRESSED HIS AUDIENCE, THEN FIELDERD QUESTION. (THE POLISH NEWS AGENCY ACCOUNT OF THE ENCOUNTER AS PUBLISHED IN TRYBUNA LUDU ON SEPTEMBER 7 DEVOTED SIX FULL CO UMNS TO THE TEXT OF GIEREK'S SPEECH AND THREE PARAGRAPHS TO PARAPHRASES OF GIEREK'S ANSWERS TO UNSPECIFIED QUESTIONS.)

3. GIEREK TOUCHED ON THE FOLLOWING FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBJECTS:

A. POLISH-SOVIE RELATIONS: PRL-USSR RELATIONS ARE, GIEREK SAID, "EVER RICHER IN ALL AREAS OF LIFE". HE ASSERTED THAT "THE IDEOLOGICAL UNITY AND CLOSE COOPERATION" OF THE PZPR AND THE CPSU GUARANTEED THE HARVEST OF BENEFITS DERIVED FROM POLAND'S TIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE REITERATED THE RESOLVE FORGED AT HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 WARSAW 07973 01 OF 02 101043Z

MEETING WITH BREZHNEV IN THE CRIMEA "TO ACCELERATE WORK ON THE LONG-TERM PROGRAMS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COOPERATION IN PRODUCTION" AND TO "REALIZE ACTIVELY THOSE AGREEMENTS AND DETERMINATIONS WHICH WERE APPROVED EARLIER." GIEREK SAID POLAND WOULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN PROJECTS "SERVING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROCESS OF SOCIALIST INTEGRATION." COOPERATION AMONG SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAS GROWN IN IMPORTANCE, HE SAID, "BECAUSE GREATER RESTRICTIONS ARE USED MORE AND MORE IN THE WEST AGAINST EXPORTS FROM OUR COUNTRIES."

B. DETENTE: GIEREK REAFFIRMED POLAND'S ALLEGIANCE TO DETENTE AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF U.S. - U.S.S. R. RELATIONS FOR POLAND. HE SAID THE SOVIET UNION REMAINS THE PRIME MOVER IN DETENTE, BUT HE DID TOSS A BOUQUET TO PRESIDENT CARTER WHO, "DURING HIS VISIT (TO POLAND), ALSO VERY STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THE GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT DIALOGUE".

C. MBFR: GIEREK SAID ACCEPTANCE BY THE WEST OF THE LATEST PROPOSAL OF "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES "WOULD BRING NEARER THE SERIOUS POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT," BUT DEPLORED THE "DANGEROUS DIRECTION" OF "RECENT NATO DECISIONS" ORCHESTRATED WITH "PROPAGANDISTIC ACTIVITY CONCERNING THE ALLEGED THREAT FROM THE STATES OF THE WARSAW PACT."

D. RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPE: ACCORDING TO GIEREK, FRANCE, AMONG CAPITALISTIC COUNTRIES, REMAINS NUMBER ONE IN THE GOP'S AFFECTION. ALSO, "THE NORMALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND THE FRG," GIEREK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 WARSAW 07973 01 OF 02 101043Z

CONTINUED, IS "AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PROCESS OF DETENTE IN EUROPE." GIEREK AVOWED POLAND'S DETERMINATION TO PURSUE THAT DIALOGUE DESPITE "FORCES THAT STILL, SOMETIMES IN AN ESPECIALLY IMPLACABLE MANNER, TRY TO ERECT OBSTACLES."

C. CHINA: GIEREK CONDEMNED THE "ANTI-SOCIALIST, ANTI-DETENTE COURSE OF THE LEADERSHIP OF CHINA" WHICH "AIMS IN ALL KINDS OF WAYS TO SHAKE THE UNITY OF THE FORCES OF SOCIALISM AND PROGRESS, TO DISRUPT

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 07973 02 OF 02 101044Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 WARSAW 7973

THE WORLD COALITION OF PEACE FORCES." GIEREK
DAMNED "THE HEGEMONISTIC PRESSURE OF CHINA ON
VIETNAM" AND, IN FACE OF THE IMPLIED CHINESE
THREAT, "TO PRESERVE THE UNITY AND ACTION OF THE
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT IN WHICH YUGOSLAVIA AND
OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES PLAY SUCH A CONSTRUCTIVE
AND IMPORTANT ROLE."

4. THE HARVEST: GIEREK SAID IT IS "TOO EARLY TO
TALK ABOUT THE HARVEST OF GRAIN." BAD
WEATHER HAS CAUSED THE SECOND LATE, WET HARVEST IN
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 07973 02 OF 02 101044Z

A ROW, BUT HE SAID, THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF
FARMERS AND "EXPANDED STATE HELP, THE EXTENT OF
LOSSES IS BEING SUCCESSFULLY LIMITED... GENERALLY WE
EXPECT BETTER RESULTS THAN LAST YEAR THOUGH IT IS
DIFFICULT TO SAY HOW MUCH".

5. GIEREK CLAIMED THAT LIVESTOCK NUMBERS
HAD BEEN
RESTORED TO THE 1974 LEVEL, BUT SAID THAT, GIVEN
POLAND'S 2.3 MILLION INCREASE IN POPULATION IN THE
INTERIM AND THE RAPID GROWTH OF PERSONAL INCOME,
THE DEMAND FOR MEAT TODAY IS GREATER THAN FOUR YEARS
AGO. A FREEZE ON THE IMPORT OF MEAT HAS COMPOUNDED
THE PROBLEM: "THIS YEAR, FOR THE TIME BEING, WE
ARE NOT IMPORTING MEAT AND ANIMAL FAT WHILE LAST YEAR
WE IMPORTED FROM ABROAD 138,000 TONS OF THESE PRODUCTS
TO MAINTAIN THE STANDARD OF LIVING." DOMESTIC MEAT
SUPPLY, GIEREK SAID, WILL INCREASE ONLY "BY MEANS
OF A FASTER GROWTH OF LIVESTOCK NUMBERS." (COMMENT:
RECENT GOP STATISTICS PUBLISHED IN BULLETIN STATYSTYCZNY
INDICATE THAT POLISH EXPORTS OF RAW MEAT HAVE IN-
CREASED BY 60 PERCENT FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1978 COM-
PARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.) END COMMENT.

6. GIEREK SAID DIFFICULTIES IN FERTILIZER SUPPLY, CAUSED BY THE BREAKDOWN OF THE WLOCLAWEK NITROGEN FERTILIZER FACTORY, HAMPERED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. FOR THE LONG TERM, GIEREK WHOLOPTIMISTIC: A NITROGEN FERTILIZER PLANT IN POLICE, HE SAID , WILL SUPPLY A MILLION TONS A YEAR SOMETIME DURING THE NEXT FIVE -YEAR PLANT (1981-1985). IN THE MEANTIME, HE ADDED, POLAND IS IMPORTING NITROGEN FERTILIZER FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO MAKE UP THE SHORTFALL IN DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND HAS STOPPED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 WARSAW 07973 02 OF 02 101044Z

THE EXPORT OF NITROGEN FERTILIZER. (COMMENT: IN 1977, POLAND EXPORTED 931,600 TONS OF NITROGEN FERTILIZER ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS. END COMMENT.)

7. GIEREK PRAISED REGIME EFFORTS TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS IN RURAL AREAS, CITING THE EXTENSION OF FREE MEDICAL CARE TOSTLG RURAL RESIDENTS AND THE EXPANSION OF THE PENSION SYSTEM FOR PRIVATE FARMERS AS EXAMPLES. BUT HE ACKNOWLEDGED CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMS BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN INTRODUCED SO QUICKLY. IRONING OUT THESE PROBLEMS, GIEREK SAID, "SIMPLY REQUIRES TIME."

8. COMMENT: GIEREK'S TALK WITH THE JOURNALISTS IS HIS FIRST MAJOR ADDRESS SINCE HIS SPEECH AT THW WORKER'S SELF-GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE IN EARLY JULY (REF A). HIS CANNED FOREIGN POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS CONTAIN NOTHING EXCEPTION IN SUBSTANCE, BUT SEVERAL POLISH OFFICIALS HAVE POINTED OUT TO US THAT THE TONE HE ADOPTED TOWARDS THE WEST IS LESS TRUCULENT THAN THAT WHICH EMERGED FROM HIS CRIMEAN SEANCE WITH BREZHNEV OR THE LINE WHICH THE POLISH MEDIA HAS TAKEN IN RECENT MONTHS (REF B). GIEREK'S COMMENTS ON THE HARVEST WERE MADE FOUR DAYS BEFORE THIS YEAR'S "DOZYNKI" CEREMONY AN ANNUAL EVENT WHICH CELEBRATES THE END OF THE HARVEST. THE HARVEST WILL PROBABLY NOT BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 10; IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE MAIN SPEECH AT THE "DOZYNKI," SOMETIMES USED TO SUM UP THE HARVEST RESULTS, WILL CONTAIN MORE DETAILS THAN GIEREK'S ADDRESS TO THE JOURNALISTS. END COMMENT.
SCHAUFLE

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